

BALUSTER KIT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the general art of
5 static structures, and to the particular field of railings
associated with staircases in buildings.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

Many buildings contain some sort of staircase, balcony
or terrace. These elements often have a railing associated
10 therewith. The railings are generally supported on the
surface of the staircase by balusters, and the balusters are
often shaped to be aesthetically pleasing. Furthermore, the
staircase may be carpeted or have stairs that are formed of
fine, and expensive, material.

15 Often, the railing is mounted on the stairs of the
staircase by mounting one baluster after another. After the
first baluster is in place, and particularly in placing the
final balusters, it may be difficult and/or time consuming
to place and position balusters between the railing and the
20 top surface of the stair or stairs associated with these
later-placed balusters.

In some cases, the placement of such late balusters may cause damage to either the carpeting or the top surface of the stairs. This consideration may exacerbate the difficulty and time-consuming problems mentioned above.

5 Therefore, there is a need for a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed between a stair and a railing associated with that stair.

 Furthermore, there is a need for a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed between a stair and a railing
10 associated with that stair without damaging carpeting on the surface of the stair.

 Still further, many people who install railings are not highly skilled carpenters and thus the above-mentioned problems become even more difficult for such people.

15 Therefore, there is a need for a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed between a stair and a railing associated with that stair and which can be easily installed by someone who is not a highly skilled carpenter. The do-it-yourself market is hampered since installation of many
20 presently-available balusters requires special tools.

 Therefore, there is a need for a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed and/or replaced without the need of expensive or special tools.

 There are some times when it is necessary to remove a

railing or remove one or more balusters to service the stairs or the railing. However, presently available balusters make this job difficult.

Therefore, there is a need for a baluster which can be easily and quickly removed and replaced.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is a main object of the present invention to provide a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed between a stair and a railing associated with that stair.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed between a stair and a railing associated with that stair without damaging carpeting on the surface of the stair.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed between a stair and a railing associated with that stair and which can be easily installed by someone who is not a highly skilled carpenter.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a baluster which can be easily and quickly removed and replaced.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a baluster which can be easily and quickly placed

and/or replaced without the need of expensive or special tools.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

These, and other, objects are achieved by a baluster
5 which comprises a base section adapted to be mounted on a
stair and having a fastener element thereon, the fastener
element fastening the base section to the stair when the
base section is mounted on the stair; a central section
connected to the base section; and a distal section adapted
10 to be mounted on the central section and having a connecting
element adapted to be connected to a rail associated with
the stair, and a bore sized to snugly and releasably
accommodate one end of the central section when the distal
section is mounted on the central section.

15 The bore permits the central section of the baluster to
be easily and quickly moved with respect to the rail and the
stair so the baluster can be easily and quickly adjusted to
properly fit the space between the rail and the stair. The
base section can be easily installed at the most opportune
20 time, i.e., either before or after a finished top surface of
the stair is provided.

Thus, the baluster embodying the present intention can
be quickly and easily installed by someone who is not highly

skilled and can be installed without damaging the stair or any covering on the stair. Because the baluster of the present invention is a two piece unit, it can be easily removed once it is in place. Thus, the baluster, the stairs, or the railing can be easily and quickly serviced. Expensive and unique tools are not required to place balusters thereby making the job less expensive than existing baluster placement jobs. Carpeting, or other floor covering can be placed whenever it is most convenient to complete the floor covering job, and the floor covering job need not be coordinated with the placement of balusters.

It is noted that the disclosure refers to a stair and a railing; however, those skilled in the art will understand that the baluster of the present invention can be used in connection with terraces or balconies as well without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a baluster embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a view taken along line 2-2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 shows the detail indicated by "A" in Figure 2.

Figure 4 shows a distal section of the baluster of the present invention fixed to a rail associated with a

staircase.

Figure 4 shows balusters of various lengths which fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5 Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings.

Referring to the Figures, it can be understood that the present invention is embodied in a baluster kit 10 which is
10 used to support a railing R above stairs S of a staircase SC.

Baluster 10 comprises a base section 12 which has a proximal end 14 adapted to be mounted on an upper surface US of a stair. A fastener-accommodating hole 16 is defined in
15 the base section 12 through the proximal end 14 thereof. A fastener 18 is adapted to be accommodated in the fastener-accommodating hole 16 and which is adapted to fasten the base element 12 to the stair when the base section 12 is mounted on the stair. The base section 12 also has a distal
20 end 20.

The baluster 10 further comprises a central section 24 which has a first end 26 connected to the distal end 20 of the base section 12 and a second end 28. The central section

24 further includes a longitudinal axis 30 which extends between the first end 26 of the central section 24 and the second end 28 of the central section 24.

5 A distal section 40 is adapted to be mounted on the central section 24. Distal section 40 includes a body 42 which has a first end 44, a second end 46, and a longitudinal axis 48 which extends between first end 44 and second end 46 of the body 42. The longitudinal axis 48 of the body 42 is collinear with the longitudinal axis 30 of
10 the central section 24 when the distal section 40 is mounted on the central section 24.

A connecting element 50 has a proximal end 52 fixed to the body 42 of the distal section 40 at the second end 46 of the distal section 40, and a distal end 54 spaced apart from
15 the second end 46 of the body 42 of the distal section 40. The connecting element 50 has a longitudinal axis 56 which extends between the proximal end 52 of the connecting element 50 and the distal end 54 of the connecting element 50. The longitudinal axis 56 of the connecting element 50 is
20 collinear with the longitudinal axis 48 of the body 42 of the distal section 40 when the distal section 40 is in place on the central section 24. The connecting element 50 is adapted to be connected to a rail associated with the stair and to be located above the stair to connect the distal

section 40 to the rail R.

A bore 60 is defined in the body 42 of the distal section 40 and extends along the longitudinal axis 48 of the body 42 of the distal section 40 from the first end 44 of the body 42 of the distal section 40 toward the second end 46 of the body 42 of the distal section 40. The bore 60 is sized to snugly and releasably accommodate the central section 24 adjacent to the second end 28 of the central section 24 when the distal section 40 is mounted on the central section 24.

The central section 24 and the base section 12 are of one-piece construction and the distal section 40 is separate. Thus, as indicated in Figure 4, the base 12 and the central section 24 can be installed on a stair and then slipped into the bore 60 of the distal section 40 to assemble the baluster 10.

The central section 24 can be made in any suitable shape, out of any suitable material and can be any of a variety of lengths as indicated in Figure 5. Thus, the baluster 10 embodying the present invention can be used in connection with a wide variety of elements.

It is understood that while certain forms of the present invention have been illustrated and described herein, it is not to be limited to the specific forms or

arrangements of parts described and shown.